



Vision 2020 Standing Committee

Final Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room

Present: Juli Brazile, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Sue Doctrow, Amy Goldstein, Annie LaCourt, Nat Strosberg, Jen Toole, Scott Lever

Visitors: Ali Carter, Director of Economic Development, Chris Rowell, Tahir Majid

1 & 2. Welcome, Agenda review, & Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of March 8, 2017 were approved as drafted. The minutes of April 11, 2017 were approved with minor corrections.

3. Reviving the Business Task Group

Ali joined us to discuss the most recent event in the business community that has raised questions about what the Town can do. An eye doctor from Belmont will take over the Diggums and Support Arlington Heights (SAH) is frustrated that they could not influence direction of development towards items the community would like. This has lead to a theory that this might be the time to revive the business task group. Chris talked about the history of SAH. Ali discussed the Main Streets concept. There is some Community Development Block Grant money to help business owners with design. But only certain areas are eligible. Planning Department has become fiscal agent for SAH. Could this be a model for the three business districts? Ali is getting the merchants meeting together by district. Sue asked if residents would be welcome to attend and listen. She has been sussing out the network of business-oriented groups including support groups. This also relates to the cultural plan. Ali is still inventorying the groups. Jen Toole talked about the different focus of the support groups and the chamber of commerce.

Overlay district – most zoning separates uses. An overlay crosses these lines. It allows expanding or contracting permissions within the overlay.

We reviewed the network map with Ali as far as what we have listed so far for the Business goal.

4. Planning the Task Group Meeting on June 7

We reviewed a propose agenda and discussed the best way to approach our conversation with the Task Group chairs. We decided on some questions to ask the committee chairs in advance of the meeting. We debated the best way to structure the conversation so as to ensure the chairs feel heard, but so we can lay out our proposed changes. Juli will send the chairs the draft of the Volunteer Manual and the questions to answer before the meeting.

5. Task Groups Updates

We discussed doing a second showing of Most Likely to Succeed in September to help the

Education Task Group continue the conversation. We can spend \$350 from this fiscal year, and the cost of Town Hall is \$220 from next year's budget.

Bill Berkowitz would be interested in helping us with a survey about community building.

We discussed the idea that pops up regularly for Arlington to have a community pool, but think the Community Preservation Committee is the best place for that discussion.

6. FY17 Budget – any final spending proposals?

We approved buying copy paper for the task groups as a gift.

7. New Business

None

Submitted by *Annie LaCourt*